Irrigation Works investigated during special Irrigation Drive in Puttur Taluk, South Kanara.

*Q.—598. Sri K. VENKATARAMANA GOWDA (Puttur).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of Irrigation Works investigated during special Irrigation Drive in Puttur Taluk of South Kanara ;

(*b*) out of these the number of them that have been executed so far ;

(*c*) when the remaining works will be taken up for execution ?

A.—Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Public Works and Electricity).—

(*a*) 45.

(*b*) 14 are under execution.

(*c*) Works will be taken up shortly.

Production of Gold in the Kolar Gold Fields.

*Q.—612. Sri F. W. CORBETT (Nominated).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the statement made by the Union Minister for Mines and Oil in the Lok Sabha on 5th March that the production of gold in the country has gone down in the last four years, and that the reduction is due to the exhaustion of the rich lodes in the Kolar Gold Fields ;

(*b*) whether this reduction is not also due to reduced efficiency in working the mines after nationalisation ;

(*c*) whether the Government will make available a statement for the two years immediately preceding nationalisation and the two years immediately following nationalisation in respect of the following items :—

(i) the tonnage of rock excavated ;

(ii) the tonnage of ore treated for the extraction of gold ;

(iii) the amount of gold recovered in ounces and the yield per ton of ore treated ;

(*d*) the present position in the Mines as regards availability of gold bearing ore ?

A.—Sri B. D. JATTI (Chief Minister).—

(*a*) The State Government do not wish to be drawn into a controversy over the statement of the Union Minister. So far as the Kolar Gold Mining Undertakings are concerned there has been a reduction in the gold produced but it cannot be said that the reduction is due to the exhaustion of the rich lodes in Kolar Gold Field. The rich lodes are encountered side by side with low grade ore, the latter however dominates.

(*b*) No.

(*c*)—

Year	Tonnage of ore hoisted	Tonnage of ore treated for extraction of gold	Quality of gold recovered ounces	Yield per ton of ore treated dwt per ton
1955-56 ...	627,486	598,451	193,443	6.42
1956-57 ...	691,166	649,520	187,001	5.75
1957-58 ...	715,277	675,868	163,123	4.83
1958-59 ...	684,564	636,181	150,781	4.72

(SRI B. D. JATTI)

(*d*)—

The ore reserves of the Mines as at 31st March 1958 are given below:—

Payable Ore Reserves	Dwt. per ton	Gold Ounces	Estimated low grade ore	Dwt. per ton	Gold Ounces
2,006,462	9.64	967,115	2,054,253	3.59	368,738

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Re : **Closure of 54 branches of Pir Bidi Factory at Mysore.**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Sri Srinivas Shetty. It relates to the illegal closure of 54 branches of the Pir Bidi Factory at Mysore.

Sri Mallaradhya also has sent notice of a similar motion.

†SRI T. SUBRAMANYA (Minister for Law, Labour and Local Self-Government).—Sir, there is one Bidi Factory by name Pir Bidi Factory in Mysore. In 56 branches workers were engaged on piece work or contract basis where the minimum wage by means of an agreement was fixed at Rs. 1-14-0 per thousand bidis, recently by the Conciliation Officer there. At the time when there was trouble a few months back the Pir Bidi Factory owner said that he would not pay this amount, that these 56 branches were not his that they were doing work on contract or on piece work basis and that since the bidi workers were not working in the factory they were not entitled to get the benefit of the agreement. He persisted in refusing to grant them this facility and he closed all those 56 branches, closed in the sense that he refused to take the bidis manufactured by these workers and they were virtually closed by 11th April 1959. Negotiations were conducted between the labourers and the management of the Pir Bidi Factory. The Conciliation Officer tried his best with the assistance and help of the Deputy Commissioner of the place, but the management would not yield. The President of the Association one Sri Aziz Sait began his fast and he was on fast for six continuous days. Subsequently, because of the efforts of the Labour Officers and the Deputy Commissioner the matter has heen settled and the Pir Bidi Factory has agreed to purchase all the bidis manufactured in those 56 branches. The lock-out has ended, work has begun and all the 1300 workers have resumed work. Sri Aziz Sait, I am told, has given up his fast cansequent upon the agreement.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER.—When?

SRI T. SUBRAMANYA.—On the 25th night I got information and I think he must have broken his fast on the 25th night a itself. I have got information that he has broken his fast. This is the situation and I think there is no necessity to press this adjournment motion.

SRI V. SRINIVAS SHETTY (Coondapur).—In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister I do not press the motion.

MYSORE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS AND LOCAL BOARDS BILL, 1959.

Motion to consider—(contd.)

SRI J. B. MALLARADHYA (Nanjangud).—I would like to invite the attention of the Minister to the wordings in clause 130,